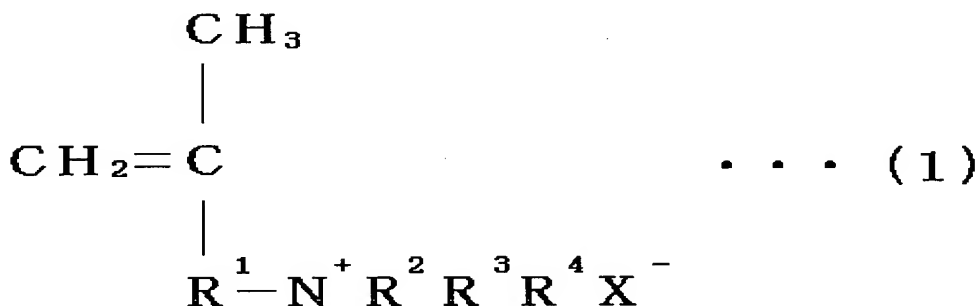


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer, produced by polymerizing a monomer (a) expressed by the following general formula 1, the following monomer (b), and the following monomer (c):

(a) general formula 1:



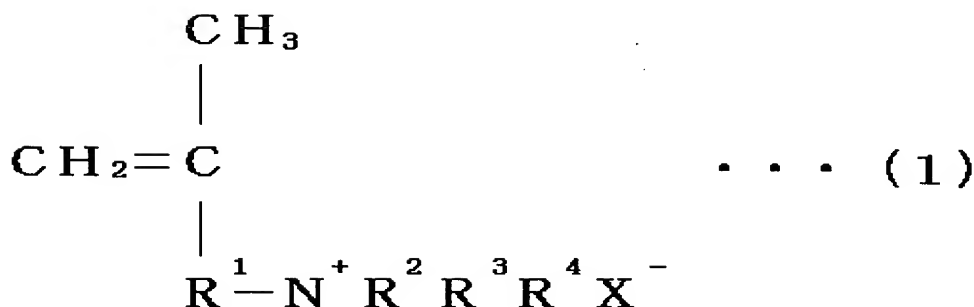
(where R¹ is a C₁ to C₄ alkylene group, R² to R⁴ are each a hydrogen atom or C₂₂ or lower alkyl group that may have a substituent (two or three of R² to R⁴ may not be hydrogen atoms), and X⁻ is an anion of an inorganic acid or an organic acid);

(b) a (meth)acrylamide;

(c) an ionic monomer other than monomer (a) expressed by general formula 1 above.

13. (Previously Presented) A papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer, produced by polymerizing a monomer (a) expressed by the following general formula 1, the following monomer (b), the following monomer (c), and a crosslinking agent (d):

(a) general formula 1



(where R¹ is a C₁ to C₄ alkylene group, R² to R⁴ are each a hydrogen atom or C₂₂ or lower alkyl group that may have a substituent (two or three of R² to R⁴ may not be hydrogen atoms), and X⁻ is an anion of an inorganic acid or an organic acid);

(b) a (meth)acrylamide;

(c) an ionic monomer other than monomer (a) expressed by general formula 1 above.

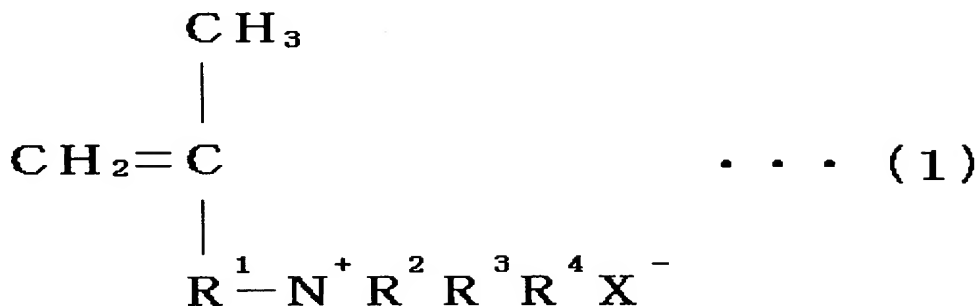
14. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 12, wherein at least one member selected from the group consisting of the monomer (a), monomer (b), and monomer (c) is polymerized, and the remaining monomers are added during this polymerization.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 13, wherein at least one member selected from the group consisting of the monomer (a), monomer (b), monomer (c), and crosslinking agent (d) is polymerized, and the remaining monomers are added during this polymerization.

16. (Previously Presented) A papermaking chemical, containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer produced by polymerizing a monomer (a) expressed by the following

general formula 1, the following monomer (b), the following monomer (c1), the following monomer (c2), and a crosslinking agent (d):

(a) general formula 1:



(where R¹ is a C₁ to C₄ alkylene group, R² to R⁴ are each a hydrogen atom or C₂₂ or lower alkyl group that may have a substituent (two or three of R² to R⁴ may not be hydrogen atoms), and X⁻ is an anion of an inorganic acid or an organic acid);

(b) a (meth)acrylamide;

(c1) a (meth)allylsulfonic acid (salt);

(c2) an ionic monomer other than the monomer (a) and the monomer (c1).

17. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing the papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 16 ~~29~~, wherein at least one member is selected from the group consisting of the monomer (a), the monomer (b), the monomer (c1), the monomer (c2), and the crosslinking agent (d) is polymerized, and the remaining monomers and/or the crosslinking agent are added during this polymerization.

18. (Previously Presented) The papermaking chemical, containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 12, wherein the polymerization is conducted in the presence of a urea compound.

19. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 14, wherein the polymerization is conducted in the presence of a urea compound.

20. (Previously Presented) The papermaking chemical, wherein the papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 12, is a paper strength agent.

21. (Previously Presented) Paper containing the papermaking chemical according to claim 20.

22. (Previously Presented) The papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 13, wherein the polymerization is conducted in the presence of a urea compound.

23. (Previously Presented) The papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 16, wherein the polymerization is conducted in the presence of a urea compound.

24. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a papermaking chemical containing a polymer according to claim 15, wherein the polymerization is conducted in the presence of a urea compound.

25. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing a papermaking chemical containing a polymer according to claim 17, wherein the polymerization is conducted in the presence of a urea compound.

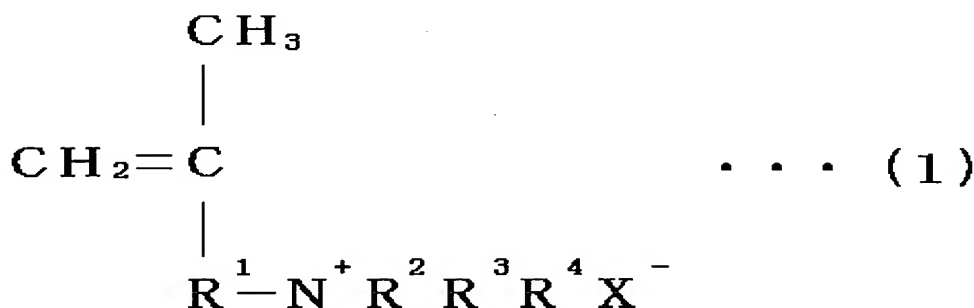
26. (Previously Presented) The papermaking chemical, wherein the papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 13 is a paper strength agent.

27. (Previously Presented) The papermaking chemical, wherein the papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 16 is a paper strength agent.

28. (Previously Presented) The papermaking chemical, wherein the papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer according to claim 18 is a paper strength agent.

29. (New) A method for manufacturing a papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer, which comprises polymerizing a monomer (a) represented by formula (1):

the monomer (a) is represented by formula 1:



(where R¹ is a C₁ to C₄ alkylene group, R² to R⁴ are each a hydrogen atom or C₂₂ or lower alkyl group that may have a substituent (two or three of R² to R⁴ may not be hydrogen atoms), and X⁻ is an inorganic acid or an anion of an organic acid);

a (meth)acrylamide, as monomer (b);

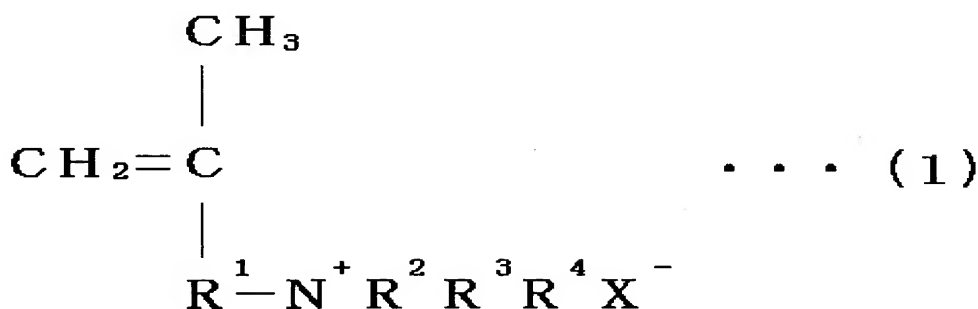
a (meth)allylsulfonic acid (salt), as monomer (c1);

an ionic monomer other than the monomer (a) and the monomer (c1), as monomer (c2); and

a cross linking agent (d).

30. (New) A method of reducing viscosity of polymers used in papermaking, which comprises polymerizing a monomer (a) expressed by formula 1, with the following monomer (b), the following monomer (c1), the following monomer (c2), and a crosslinking agent (d):

(a) formula 1



(where R¹ is a C₁ to C₄ alkylene group, R² to R⁴ are each a hydrogen atom or C₂₂ or lower alkyl group that may have a substituent (two or three of R² to R⁴ may not be hydrogen atoms), and X⁻ is an inorganic acid or an anion of an organic acid);

(b) a (meth)acrylamide;

(c1) a (meth)allylsulfonic acid (salt);

(c2) an ionic monomer other than the monomer (a) and the monomer (c1),
 thereby producing a (meth)acrylamide polymer.

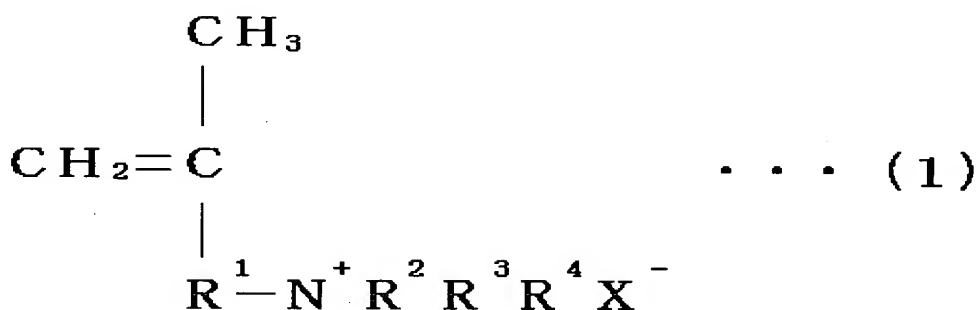
31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein at least one member selected from the group consisting of the monomer (a), the monomer (b), the monomer (c1), the monomer (c2), and the crosslinking agent (d) is polymerized, and the remaining monomers and/or the crosslinking agent are added during this polymerization.

32. (New) The method of reducing viscosity of polymers used in papermaking according to claim 30, wherein the polymerization is carried out in the presence of a urea compound.

33. (New) The method of reducing viscosity of polymers used in papermaking according to claim 31, wherein the polymerization is carried out in the presence of a urea compound.

34. (New) A method of increasing paper strength, which comprises adding to a pulp slurry a papermaking chemical containing a (meth)acrylamide polymer produced by polymerizing a monomer (a) expressed by general formula 1, the following monomer (b), the following monomer (c1), the following monomer (c2), and a crosslinking agent (d):

(a) general formula 1



(where R¹ is a C₁ to C₄ alkylene group, R² to R⁴ are each a hydrogen atom or C₂₂ or lower alkyl group that may have a substituent (two or three of R² to R⁴ may not be hydrogen atoms), and X⁻ is an inorganic acid or an anion of an organic acid);

(b) a (meth)acrylamide;

(c1) a (meth)allylsulfonic acid (salt);

(c2) an ionic monomer other than the monomer (a) and the monomer (c1).

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein at least one member selected from the group consisting of the monomer (a), the monomer (b), the monomer (c1), the monomer (c2), and the crosslinking agent (d) is polymerized, and the remaining monomers and/or the crosslinking agent are added during this polymerization.

36. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the polymerization is carried out in the presence of a urea compound.

37. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein the polymerization is carried out in the presence of a urea compound.